



**Uncommon Sense 1 Corinthians**  
**Wk. 17 Avoiding Sexual Suicide**  
**By Pastor Jody May 08/17/2025**

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**1 Corinthians 1:25** - For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

**Uncommon Sense** - *"God's Wisdom over man's pride through a Flawed Church."*

**[CALL TO HEAR]**

**1 Corinthians 6:12-20 ESV**

**Flee Sexual Immorality**

<sup>12</sup>"All things are lawful for me," but not all things are helpful. "All things are lawful for me," but I will not be dominated by anything. <sup>13</sup>"Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food"—and God will destroy both one and the other. The body is not meant for sexual immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. <sup>14</sup>And God raised the Lord and will also raise us up by his power. <sup>15</sup>Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! <sup>16</sup>Or do you not know that he who is joined to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For, as it is written, "The two will become one flesh." <sup>17</sup>But he who is joined to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. <sup>18</sup>Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body. <sup>19</sup>Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, <sup>20</sup>for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.

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**Pastor - "People of God, this is the Word of God."**

**People - "Thanks be to God."**

**Pray**

**Illustration**

One of the most joyous and simplest of pleasures a person can ever experience is feeding their children.

But even then, enjoying their desire for food if not tempered can become destructive.



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Fleshly desires need to be controlled and put under the reign of Christ, so that the servant of God may use such passions to fuel life and ministry.

## **Introduction**

In the same way Paul as the Corinthian's Spiritual Father (4:15), after encouraging their hunger for the sake of the Gospel in his initial birthing and planting of the church, he must now curve their appetites for fleshly satiation lest they risk losing the grace they so enjoy.

What is this spiritual adult that Paul wants to see his offspring develop into?

**2 Corinthians 6:14, 16-18 ESV** (see also Lev 26:12; Ex 29:45)

### **The Temple of the Living God**

<sup>14</sup>Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. For what partnership has righteousness with lawlessness

<sup>16</sup>What agreement has the temple of God with idols? **For we are the temple of the living God;** as God said,

“I will make my dwelling among them and walk among them,  
and I will be their God,  
and they shall be my people.

<sup>17</sup> Therefore go out from their midst,  
and be separate from them, says the Lord,  
and touch no unclean thing;  
then I will welcome you,

<sup>18</sup> and I will be a father to you,  
and you shall be sons and daughters to me,  
says the Lord Almighty.”

Because God dwells with the Corinthian Church they are to go out from the midst of the unbelievers in Corinth. Now that doesn't mean have no association whatsoever with unbelievers, Paul understands the necessities of everyday affairs with people in the city for life and flourishing (5:9-10) but we are not to do what they do in their lives of personal/familial practices. Corinthians/Church are to be separate; it is the calling to be Holy. Then it



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says the blessings of the Father (18), His daily relationships with His people, will be experienced **as we remain** out of worldliness. **Worldly living hinders heavenly blessings, remember it that way.** This passage explains the intent of all of Paul's writings, his visits, and labors towards the Corinthians. To have them experience Holy living for the sake of growing as a Holy family, with God as their Father. So, in order to do that today, here is his thrust for this passage.

**MP:**

**Committing to Holy Living means  
Fleeing from Sexual Immorality**

Committing to Holy Living in our passage today will require us to commit to three other things we learn from the text. **First, we need to commit to the Lord the 'Whole Body' for Service.** That means not just our minds, nor just our hearts, but the whole of our being, *all we are as a person will be all that God judges at His return.* **Secondly, we commit to our Eternal Oneness with Christ.** That is, we live life in such a way that demonstrates an understanding and acceptance that we are joined first, foremost, and forever with Jesus before we embark in any other earthly relationship. Therefore, let us make sure that we don't take Jesus into any unholy practices or places. **Thirdly, we commit to the glorification of Christ in all of life, for all of life is about Him.** What keeps us on this narrow path is the understanding we don't live towards the ends of self-gratification, but we seek the glorification of Jesus' victory in us over this world!

**1. Commit to the Lord the Whole Body for Service.**

<sup>12</sup>"All things are lawful for me," but not all things are helpful. "All things are lawful for me," but I will not be dominated by anything.

What does it mean that **all things are lawful**? Translation into the modern vernacular: *I can do whatever I want.* Theologians and historians agree that this is actually a play on words that was most likely used in Corinth. Corinthians had taken the popular Greek thoughts of the day and kept what they wanted and threw the rest out. That's how all of Corinth lived. They were



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the gateway of the Roman lands from the north down to the Mediterranean world in the south. Every religion along with every philosophy and every way of life that went with those things could be experienced in Corinth. This made Corinth the pleasure capital of the ancient world.

Let's narrow this down a little to just what the ancient philosophers taught about the relationship between mind/soul and body.

Platonism – Body is a Prison. No enlightenment until death.

Stoicism – You care for the body for it supports the soul.

Gnosticism – All flesh is bad. Flesh is not to be nourished nor desired.

All three believed and taught that the flesh kept you from developing your mind/soul/intellect the way it should because the flesh was conceived in a fallen creation. It seems the Greek thought at the time, thanks to Plato and Socrates, was that the soul was divine and eternal.<sup>1</sup> It was placed in the body as a prison which led to them away from the thoughts of an afterlife in Hades and more into **Reincarnation**. That you would be trapped until your eternal and divine self-learned enough to escape its' earthly confines finally returning to the heavens.

But it seems the Corinthians, being a conglomerate of all things, cooked it down to something easier to live with. Paul gives us a clue to what that is:

**1 Corinthians 15:32 ESV**

What do I gain if, humanly speaking, I fought with beasts at Ephesus? If the dead are not raised, "Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die."

It seems that from, "all things are lawful" & "let us eat and drink for tomorrow we may die", along with the corruption we have detailed in Paul's letters, it seems the Corinthians came up with their own 'fun' philosophy. The body may be bad, you cannot help lust/greed (HUNGER) in the flesh, BUT the soul is eternal, and you couldn't help being born in Corinth that was a preordained chance, well by all means **indulge the flesh!** You'll get another chance to redeem yourself in the next life. This translated into a different/mutated lifestyle for the newly formed Corinthian Church. The Corinthian church rejected the Hades afterlife, they rejected reincarnation, FOR they accepted

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.thecollector.com/ancient-greek-theories-of-the-human-soul/>



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eternity with God now in Heaven, all the while clinging to the concept that flesh was fallen and why fight it when you got gifted with something called GRACE! (once saved always saved)

Where did destructive train of thought come from? Well sometimes as a parent you feed a lot to your kids what they seem to like because they are growing! Paul would have fed the Corinthians a lot of Grace, especially to the slaves to let them know you are not defined by societal positions, but you are called Sons of the Most High shown by the gift of faith you received! It doesn't mean though Paul would not have fed them a well-balanced diet of Law and Grace, that's **well-rounded meal** of the Full Gospel.

Listen to this chastisement from Paul that came to the Galatians 2 years before he ever planted Corinth! It would have been his same message for them as well.

**Galatians 5:13 ESV**

For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve on another.

Family, it needs to be said today in light of God's Word. You are walking the broad path of the world if you think you can eat, drink and be merry because at some point in your past you said a prayer and some pastor said that was enough for your Salvation. Yes, friend you are saved by Grace, but a grace filled man, does not use the freedom bought by the blood of Christ to fulfill his carnal desires. As Paul said 'we' are not to be **dominated** by that thinking (12).

<sup>13</sup>"Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food"—and God will destroy both one and the other. The body is not meant for sexual immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body.

That word '**destroy**', that has an end of the age connotation to it, based on where we have been in Corinthians. God will one day do away with the desires of the flesh, meaning they should never be primary in your pursuits for they will not be a primary pursuit in eternity. The Lord reminded of this very principle while with us, "*Man shall not live by bread alone but by every word that*



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comes from the mouth of God.”- Jesus (Mat 4:4; Lk 4:4). Hunger pains don’t direct us, desires to satiate don’t drive us, decisions based on being full don’t dominate us! Then Paul equates that to sex. Our bodies are not to have their fill in sexually immoral practices, the body is meant to serve the Lord!

You see so many times family, because we have a desire for something, a craving to be filled, we think that comes with **the right to fill it!** *Because I crave therefore, I deserve to fill it.* But what the Bible teaches us is that we are not to be controlled by the body for the right that we DO have, inherited as Christians, is to surrender our will to Jesus and use all the strength in our bodies for Him. The pursuit of sexual immorality among the people of God displays a people that don’t know how to make the best use of their time OR don’t really belong to Him!

Committing our whole body, mind, soul, and spirit means we use our bodies to indulge in what God wants, not our wants. Then to add the cherry on top Paul corrects the Corinthian’s eschatology.

**14 And God raised the Lord and will also raise us up by his power.**

Corinthians guess what, not only is your soul eternal but your body as well! You will be living in the flesh again to the glory of God! Meaning, your spirit is not divine like God’s, it was knitted into your flesh, as David said in your mother’s womb (Psalm 139:13). Therefore, understand Christian, your fleshly desire comes from depravity, they come from your Spirit that desires to use the flesh for its’ own gain. Our desire for unhealthy sex comes from the need to be desired, the need to indulge, and the need to dominate others, because we refuse to believe that Christ has dominated this world for us, so that we don’t have to be enslaved to it anymore!

That is the Truth we need to fill ourselves on! Christ victory over this world, his dominance over an over-sexualized culture in His day, means He knows of something that is truly better than filling our stomachs with that which can never fully fill. Having a relationship with the God of this universe is THE ONLY THING that can ever fill us up, family! The Gospel of Jesus delivers us



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bread that can finally stop all our earthly cravings! (think of a child's food addictions)

Family we have to commit the whole body to the service of God, for if we keep lying to ourselves that sexual sin is ok, then we are jeopardizing the Spirit's ability to convict us of sin, we lose our witness in the world because we look just like everyone else, and we fool around with the very same sin that caused God to prune the Israelites, His chosen, out of the family tree. Family commit your whole being unto Jesus for service!

**2. Commit to our Eternal 'Oneness' with Christ.**

<sup>15</sup> Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! <sup>16</sup> Or do you not know that he who is joined to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For, as it is written, "The two will become one flesh."

Paul is building his whole argument here about being Holy **requires us to flee sexual immorality**, using language from Genesis. Now I brought this up four weeks ago when we hit chapter 5, but just as a refresher let's journey back there and review what is Paul's view of sex is between 2 people.

**Genesis 2:24 ESV**

Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, **and they shall become one flesh**.

Sex is a part of the mandate from Genesis 2, that when a man and woman are married, that union makes them one flesh. That means married couples don't live two separate lives, they don't have separate passions, they don't have separate goals for this life, they are to live for the glory of God, through the marriage, raising up Godly offspring to increase the image of God on the earth, working as one unit. That means a lot of sacrificial living by the man so that the woman while submitting to his leadership feels secure in it ([Eph 5:22-28](#)). That means it's a lot of work folks; a Godly marriage is about Godly disagreements by which both parties grow SO THAT they can raise Godly offspring and then help that offspring plant and continue God's line.



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Paul is pointing out that sex is viewed as that which joins people together in oneness. The Wedding event begins the process of telling witnesses what is about to happen, in the lives of this new union facing the world together as one, in the act of a publicized covenant given in God's name. The wedding night is the consummation of the public declaration. Just as the HS **marks us and seals us** in our union with God ([Eph 1:13](#); [2 Cor 1:22](#)) so does the sexual union marks and seals the married couple's heart to one another. What that means is that sex doesn't just join people physically to one another it joins them emotionally at a deep level. Paul is like that is why it is crazy for you to sleep with a prostitute, for sex is more than just a physical experience it is an emotional connection.

Just for argument's sake, in the moment here, there are those in this church that can testify to this truth. That there are girlfriends and boyfriends that have come and gone respectively in our lives that our minds never think of BUT many of us have people in our past that we have slept with outside of marriage, and you can't forget them. I say that not to condemn nor to bring up a sour memory for you, for the Grace of God will still build a Godly marriage despite that, but I say it to merely build the point and the stark reality of what Paul is saying here, **it is more than just physical**. There is a psycho-physical marker placed in your soul every time that happens with a new person.<sup>2</sup>

Young people in this room, that is why you are to marry as a virgin because your future spouse should be the only person that ever has that space in your memories! Parents one of the most serious and important roles we can play in the lives of our kids is to help them steer clear of serious relationships before they are ready for marriage, and then always dictate the rules of how dating works, where you go always in public. That is your call, that is role, and it is very important.

As serious as all this is, Paul steps it up one notch when it comes to our union with Christ. Paul makes the point not to join with prostitutes because we

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<sup>2</sup> Thomas Schreiner, [1 Corinthians: An Introduction and Commentary](#) (Vol 7) Tyndale NT Commentaries (Downers Grove, IL: Inter Varsity Press, 2018), 128.



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belong to Christ. First off, prostitutes in the ancient world many times, and you would definitely expect this in Corinth, were joined with pagan demonic gods. It was thought that when you slept with one of these prostitutes you garner the favor of the gods making that emotional joining with the prostitute. Paul says, our spirit, our hearts, our soul has ALREADY been joined with Christ, there is no more room for any other god in your life; *"you shall have no other gods before me"* ([Ex 20:3-5](#))!

**<sup>17</sup> But he who is joined to the Lord becomes one spirit with him.**

We are now joined with Christ, we are one, what He lives for we live for, what He wants we want, what He works towards we work towards, for our life first and foremost is one in Him. This is what it means to be a servant of Jesus, and friends you cannot separate being a Christian away from being His servant. Jesus actually prayed that we would be so close to Him that it would be seen in His people a oneness, as I described, because it was the same oneness He had with the Father.

**John 17:20-23 ESV**

**<sup>20</sup> "I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, <sup>21</sup> that they **may all be one**, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. <sup>22</sup> The glory that you have given me I have given to them, **that they may be one even as we are one**, <sup>23</sup> I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me.**

Jesus prayed for it, that this joining would happen! We are his and He is ours, Amen! When two Christians are joined together you just get doubled of a great thing!

Committing to our eternal 'oneness' with Christ means committing to the fact that I can't act responding to emotional hunger pains anymore, I have already been joined with Christ. So, we flee from sexual immorality because we don't belong to ourselves, sex is more than physical, we belong to Christ for eternity, and because of these truths it calls us to live a different way.



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**3. Commit to the Glorification of Christ in all of life.**

<sup>18</sup> Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body.

The conclusion to Paul's argument here is to FLEE sexual immorality. Every theologian and commentary I read this week referenced this story I am about to tell you, [Genesis 39:1-18](#). Joseph the youngest brother of 12, the discarded brother, but chosen servant of God, was placed as the head attendant in the Captain of the Guard, of Pharaoh of Egypt. Potiphar was his name and Potiphar's wife had a sexual appetite that could not be satiated by her husband. She cornered one day poor Joseph, who could have her and who would blame him? Didn't he have a right to be happy? After a rough childhood, sold into slavery, and now to be offered the bed that could only lead to other favors in that kingdom, perhaps he could work it towards freedom? Instead of thinking about his own gain, he says to her, <sup>8</sup> ... "Behold, because of me my master has no concern about anything in the house, ... <sup>9</sup> **He is not greater in this house than I am**, nor has he kept back anything from me except you, because you are his wife. How then can I do this great wickedness and sin against God?" She grabbed his cloak would not take 'no' for answer, so he left her standing with the cloak in hand. This fuels her anger his rejection, she lies to her husband about the event, and he loses everything and is thrown into jail.

You see to flee sexual immorality, and at that point any greedy desire you may have, it may cost you position in life, favor of those you befriend, money or prestige, and even the defaming of your name. All of that is what you should choose, for **God's name is worth more than yours**, and you are the living embodiment of His presence among the people!

Paul says every other sin we commit outside of ourselves, but sexual immorality is sinning against yourself. Yes, for along with sexual immorality comes with it the marking of your soul, which is of a permanent nature. It causes you even after the delivery of grace into your life a part of the world that can keep coming back reminding you of some poor life choices. It means you



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will deal a little more than others do with guilt; you will have to work harder at believing the Gospel.

<sup>19</sup>Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, <sup>20</sup>for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.

**Family** let me remind us of all of the **Gospel ramifications**.

Jesus has freed us from the condemnation of the law, but His work does not release us from the requirement of the law, to bear the image of God rightly, we are now the temple. Therefore, His **Grace has made us free unto Holy Living**, no longer under the bondage of lustful living. Not just in this present life but to the eternal, in which we will also have a future glorified and eternal physical body. This body shall no longer be chained to sinful hungers and desires but will be free to pursue an eternal feasting and contentment from Christ's presence with His people. See also [Romans 6:15-23](#).

**Romans 6:22 ESV**

<sup>22</sup>But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life.

I want to close this point and commend you to think about how your life is to glorify Christ in light of all that He has done for us. [Kim Riddlebarger](#), made this conclusion in his commentary on this point.<sup>3</sup>

"In Jesus Christ's eyes we are all **pure virgins**. We are clothed in His perfect righteousness and cleansed from all our sins. It is only when we realize who we are in Christ (spotless) that our attraction to non-Christian views of sexuality begin to diminish. And we begin to gain both the strength and desire to flee whenever Potiphar's wife casts her gaze in our direction." - Riddlebarger

**[CALL TO OBEY]**

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<sup>3</sup> Kim Riddlebarger, [First Corinthians](#), The Lectio Continua Expository Commentary on the New Testament (Powder Springs, GA: Tolle Lege Press, 2013), 164.



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**Avoid what is not profitable.**

- Spending too much time in courting relationships not leading to marriage.
- Talking to the opposite sex about matters of the heart.
- Working around those that care not for your physical and spiritual boundaries.

**Avoid what will enslave.**

- Watching media that elevates sexuality over character.
- Following or promoting social media that uses physical depictions to build esteem.

Family it is my prayer that you have seen that Jesus is worth it, and that you have already been called to Him for Him so that all glory will be unto Him. When we all commit to that you will see how natural our main point comes to you today.

**MP:**

**Committing to Holy Living means  
Fleeing from Sexual Immorality**

Let's prayer together and ask our Lord to make us one with Him.

**Prayer**

**Communion**

**1 Corinthians 11:23-26 ESV**

For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, <sup>24</sup> and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, "This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me."<sup>25</sup> In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."<sup>26</sup> For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.



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Today when you eat of the bread remember the life of Jesus which was lived for us. Again, it was a life of discipline and adherence to the good calling of having no other gods before His Father. Jesus was so good to put His mind towards the Word of God for all His needs, and by His work we were rewarded with the eternal life He earned. Praise be to Him for His commitment to the Father!

Today when you drink the juice remember the cost of our sin displayed by His blood for the new covenant. For all of us have gone astray, all of us have sought to please ourselves someway outside of what God had provided for us. Our adultery towards God cost the life of Jesus but thanks be to God He used that perfect sacrifice to wash us clean. Praise be to Him for His wonderful love!

**[CONFESSION OF FAITH]**

\* The Congregation will stand

Elder – **“Christians, what do we believe?”** Congregation – recites:

**London Baptist Confession of Faith 1689 Chapter 21 Paragraph 3 Christian Liberty and Liberty of Conscience**

Those who use Christian liberty as an excuse to practice any sin or nurture any sinful desire pervert the main objective of the grace of the gospel to their own destruction,<sup>16</sup> and they completely destroy the purpose of Christian liberty. This purpose is that we, having been delivered from the hands of all our enemies, may serve the Lord without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him, all the days of our lives.<sup>17</sup>

<sup>16</sup>Romans 6:1, 2. <sup>17</sup>Galatians 5:13; 2 Peter 2:18, 21.

**[OFFERING+LAST SONG]**

**[BENEDICTION]**



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Go in the name of the Father, that provided the perfect and unstained Groom of the church.

Go in the name of the Son, that fled all immorality for us, so that He may make us clean by the washing in His precious blood.

Go in the name of and power of the HS, that marks us as His own, that binds us to Christ, so that we may live free from temptation.



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